

The Witness

Volume XXII, Issue XII

Newsletter

December 2024

Someone giving it all for you!

When we were teenagers, we longed for a boy/girl friend that would think we were marvelous. That would be willing to give themselves for us. That would think about us always. That would never abandon us. That would sacrifice everything for us. But that never happened.

Instead, they would lose interest in us. They would find someone else. They would abandon us if we fell short. They broke our hearts. In the end we felt inadequate and alone. We were looking in the wrong place, for the wrong thing.

In fact, there was someone who thought we were marvelous. Who would be willing to give their life and sacrifice all for us. Who would never abandon us. Who will never abandon us even when we fall short. He did/does all of this in spite of our inadequacy. He did/does this just because He chose to. He loves us more deeply than any person. Of course this is our God, the Father, and His Son, our Savior, Jesus.

This month we will celebrate the love that has been shown to us by our God. The verse that is so familiar that it can lose its power: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." John

3:16, ESV. The radical love that we so desperately desire. It was there / and is there all along. Not because we deserve it. But just because He chose to give it.

This love is demonstrated in this way – He sent His Son to die in our place. To be the means by which we enter the family of God. To enable us to stand before Him with a righteousness that comes from Jesus. This is love – total sacrifice. And He never abandons us or leaves us.

And the sacrifice began when He left His rightful place in heaven. Left the praise that He deserved to receive rejection, abuse, and sorrow. Changed His unapproachable glory to take on flesh and to suffer and to struggle in this broken world. This sinless one took on our sin and endured the punishment that the Father had allocated as deserved judgment for sin. And He did so that we broken and sinful people might be forgiven and receive His righteousness if we but trust in Him and what He did.

Christmas is about this. An amazing love story. An unfathomable love that paid an unbelievable price so He could have a relationship with us. How can we not trust in Him. Give our lives to Him. Tell everyone about this full story of what happened when He came to earth. The baby born. The Savior born. The King born.

Because of His love for us.

As we approach Christmas, let us first be sure that we have trusted in Him. Then let us praise Him for what He has done. And finally let us tell others.

Pastor Danny

At-A-Glance:

October's Gifts: \$18,043.⁰⁰
2024 Gifts : \$206,837.⁶²
2024 Budget: \$287,270.⁰⁰

Your Church Staff...

Pastor: **Bro. Danny Parker**

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In the office Mon. - Thurs.,

8:30am - 2:30pm

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November in Youth

Hey y'all! We had a nice month in youth this November. We finished our series: Fearless from October. We also had time to talk about Discipleship and what it means to truly be a disciple of Jesus, rather than a "Christian."

One thing that started this month is basketball at the school. With that comes long daily practices. However, come out and support our Owls and show them we're in their corner!

This past week, we also hosted a Operation Christmas Child party. Our students had an opportunity to pack boxes for kids. We also wrote notes and intentionally prayed for the kid and missionaries who would take the Gospel to them!

This upcoming month we'll focus on Christmas. We'll be taking our students to look at Christmas lights, as well as caroling. With that being said, we hope you all have a blessed Christmas season!

Merry Christmas,
Dennis and Sam Wagner

December Outreach – Christ Honoring End of Year

December marks the world (at some level) recognizing the birth of the Son of God. Times obviously are changing, but almost every nation has awareness of this amazing birth. And within our country, people remain aware of the special day that is set aside to honor our Savior. They hear and sing songs that contain strong gospel messages, though often with little acknowledgment. What a time for us to witness and explain the depth of the meaning and invite others to know this Savior! And how easy it is to invite others to attend a church event that celebrates the season!

The first of our 'easy to invite a visitor' events is the Church Christmas Dinner. First of all it is on a Saturday, so visitors won't feel like they are being invited to a 'religious' event. This is a great low key time to invite friends and family. It's also a key time for us to fellowship together just prior to the chaos that often occurs later in the month. Saturday, December 7. Don't forget.

While not a 'visitor' event, we will also have another afternoon event in December. On Sunday, December 15 is our quarterly business meeting that will occur at 2:30 on that Sunday afternoon. The last business meeting of the year is especially important as we close out the year and consider 2025's budget and workers.

Finally, one of our favorite services will be on Sunday evening 6:00 on December 22. This will be our annual Christmas Candlelight Service. With a Christmas atmosphere, and subdued lighting, we will celebrate Christ's coming with the Lord's Supper, Christmas music, and scripture readings. The conclusion will be lighting individual candles across the sanctuary. What a way to prepare our hearts for the celebration later that week of Christmas.

Also remember that the church office will be closed December 23-January 2.

Holiday months are busy personally and with family. And appropriately so. But let us keep focused spiritually as well. Christ is the reason for the season.

Pastor Danny

Lottie Moon Week of Prayer December 1st-8th.
Please pray and consider how you may contribute to this offering. 100% of this collection goes directly to mission work on the field.



As a church, we sent more than 50 boxes for Operation Christmas Child! Thank you to everyone who participated in this important ministry.